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DEPT ALSO FOR EUR/SE, EUR/RPM (VOVCHUK AND CALSON) AND L/T  
(HOLLERAN)

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TAGS: [KTIA](#) [MARR](#) [NATO](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [HR](#) [AL](#) [GR](#)  
SUBJECT: GREECE/NATO: ACCESSION PROCESS STATUS UPDATE

REF: A. STATE 7128  
[1](#)B. ATHENS 65

Classified By: A/POL COUNSELOR JEFF HOVENIER. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

[1](#)1. (C) Per ref A request, we have further followed-up with GOG officials on the status of the protocols of accession of Albania and Croatia to NATO (ref B). The protocols are now pending in the Parliament, and various contacts have confirmed that the Parliament is expected to approve them in "February or early March." In a January 30 meeting with the Dimitris Sioufas, the President of the Parliament, the DCM underscored the importance of rapid approval. The President of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs, Krinio Kanellopoulou, reaffirmed to Ambassador Speckhard February 3 that Parliamentary review and approval is on track and will come quickly. Major opposition PASOK "Shadow Defense Minister" (and MP) Vasso Papandreou told A/Political Counselor February 2 that she anticipated "no drama" in obtaining Parliamentary approval of the protocols well in advance of the April NATO Summit.

[1](#)2. (C) MFA NATO Department Deputy Director Daskarolis told A/Political Counselor that the MFA would require "very little time" to deposit the instruments of ratification following Parliamentary approval. "The papers are prepared and ready, and will move as soon as the Parliament has ratified," he added. Embassy Athens will continue to follow the issue closely.  
SPECKHARD